

And leads the will to desperate Vndertakings,
As oft as any passion vnder Heauen,
That does afflict our Natures. I am sorrie,
What haue you giuen him any hard words of late?
Oph. No my good Lord: but as you did command,
I did repell his Letters, and deny'de
His accesse to me.
Pol. That hath made him mad.
I am sorrie that with better speed and iudgement
I had not quoted him. I feare he did but misse,
And meant to wracke thee: but bestrew my ieaousie:
It seemes it is as proper to our Age,
To cast beyond our selues in our Opinions,
As it is common for the yonger sort
To lacke discretion. Come, go we to the King,
This must be knowne, & being kept close might moue
More greefe to hide, then hate to vtter loue. *Exeunt.*

Scena Secunda.

*Enter King, Queene, Rosinocrane, and Guilden-
sterne Cum alijs.*

King. Welcome deere Rosinocrane and Guilden-
sterne. Moreouer, that we much did long to see you,
The neede we haue to vse you, did prouoke
Our hastie sending. Something haue you heard
Of Hamlets transformation: so I call it,
Since not th'exterior, nor the inward man
Resembles that it was. What it should bee
More then his Fathers death, that thus hath put him
So much from th'vnderstanding of himselfe,
I cannot deeme of. I intreat you both,
That being of so young dayes brought vp with him:
And since so Neighbour'd to his youth, and humour,
That you vouchsafe your rest here in our Court
Some little time: so by your Companies
To draw him on to pleasures, and to gather
So much as from Occasions you may gleane,
That open'd lies within our remedie.

Qu. Good Gentlemen, he hath much talk'd of you,
And lute I am, two men there are not liuing,
To whom he more adheres. If it will please you
To shew vs so much Gentrie, and good will,
As to expend your time with vs a while,
For the supply and profit of our Hope,
Your Visitation shall receiue such thanks
As fits a Kings remembrance.

Rosin. Both your Maiesties
Might by the Soueraigne power you haue of vs,
Put your dread pleasures, more into Command
Then to Entreatie.

Guild. We both obey,
And here giue vp our selues, in the full bent,
To lay our Services freely at your feete,
To be commanded.

King. I thankes Rosinocrane, and gentle Guilden-
sterne.

Qu. Thankes Guildensterne and gentle Rosinocrane.
And I beseech you instantly to visit
My too much changed Sonne.

Go some of ye,
And bring the Gentlemen where Hamlet is.

Guild. Heauen make our presence and our praistifes
Pleasant and helpfull to him. *Exit.*

Queene. Amen.

Enter Polonius.

Pol. Th' Ambassadors from Norway, my good Lord,
Are ioyfully return'd.

King. Thou still hast bin the Father of good Newes.
Pol. Haue I, my Lord? Assure you, my good Liege,

I hold my dutie, as I hold my Soule,
Both to my God, one to my gracious King:
And I do thinke, or else this braine of mine
Hunts not the traile of Policie, so sure
As I haue vs'd to do: that I haue found
The very cause of Hamlets Lunacie.

King. Oh speake of that, that I do long to heare.

Pol. Giue first admittance to th' Ambassadors,
My Newes shall be the Newes to that great Feast.

King. Thy selfe do grace to them, and bring them in.
He tels me my sweet Queene, that he hath found
The head and fource of all your Sonnes distemper.

Qu. I doubt it is no other, but the maine,
His fathers death, and our o're-hasty Marriage.

Enter Polonius, Voltumand, and Cornelius.

King. Well, we shall sife him. Welcome good Friends:
Say Voltumand, what from our Brother Norway?

Volt. Most faire returne of Greetings, and Desires,
Vpon our first, he sent out to suppreffe

His Nephewes Lewies, which to him appear'd
To be a preparation 'gainst the Poleack:

But better look'd into, he truly found
It was against your Highnesse, whereat greued,

That so his Sicknesse, Age, and Impotence
Was fallily borne in hand, sends out Arrests

On Fortinbras, which he (in breefe) obceyes,
Receiues rebuke from Norway: and in fine,

Makes Vow before his Vnkle, neuer more
To giue th'assay of Armes against your Maiestie.

Whereon old Norway, ouercome with ioy,
Gives him three thousand Crownes in Annuall Fee,

And his Commission to imploy those Soldiers
So leui'd as before, against the Poleack:

With an intreaty herein further shewne,
That it might please you to giue quiet passe

Through your Dominions, for his Enterprize,
On such regards of safety and allowance,

As therein are set downe.

King. It likes vs well:

And at our more consider'd time wee'l read,
Answer, and thinke vpon this Businesse.

Meane time we thanke you, for your well-tooke Labour.
Go to your rest, at night wee'l Feast together.

Most welcome home. *Exit Ambass.*

Pol. This businesse is very well ended.
My Liege, and Madam, to expostulate

What Maiestie should be, what Dutie is,
Why day is day; night, night; and time is time,

Were nothing but to waste Night, Day and Time.
Therefore, since Breuitie is the Soule of Wit,

And tediousnesse, the limbes and outward flourishes,
I will be breefe. Your Noble Sonne is mad:

Mad call I it; for to define true Madnesse,
What is't, but to be nothing else but mad.

But let that go.

Qu. More matter, with lesse Art.

Pol. Madam, I sweare I vse no Art at all:
That he is mad, 'tis true: 'Tis true 'tis pittie,

And pittie it is true: A foolish figure,
But farewell it: for I will vse no Art.

Mad

Mad let vs grant him then: and now remains
That we finde out the cause of this effect;
Or rather say, the cause of this defect;
For this effect defectiue, comes by cause,
Thus it remains, and the remainder thus. Perpend,
I haue a daughter: haue, whilst she is mine,
Who in her Dutie and Obedience, marke,
Hath giuen me this: now gather, and surmise.

The Letter.

To the Celestiall, and my Soules Idoll, the most beautified O-
phelia.

That's an ill Phrase, a wilde Phrase, beautified is a wilde
Phrase: but you shall heare these in her excellent white
bosome, these.

Qu. Came this from Hamlet to her.

Pol. Good Madam stay awhile, I will be faithfull.

Doubt thou, the Starres are fire.

Doubt, that the Sunne doth moue:

Doubt, Truth to be a Lier,

But neuer Doubt, I loue.

*O deere Ophelia, I am ill at these Numbers: I haue not Art to
reckon my groines; but that I loue thee best, oh most Best be-
lieue it. Adieu.*

*Thine excrement most deere Lady, whilst this
Machine is to him, Hamlet.*

This in Obedience hath my daughter shew'd me:
And more about hath his soliciting,

As they fell out by Time, by Meanes, and Place,
All giuen to mine care.

King. But how hath she receiv'd his Loue?

Pol. What do you thinke of me?

King. As of a man, faithfull and Honourable.

Pol. I would faine proue so. But what might you thinke?

When I had seene this hot loue on the wing,
As I perceiv'd it, I must tell you that

Before my Daughter told me, what might you
Or my deere Maiestie your Queene heere, thinke,

If I had play'd the Deske or Table-booke,
Or giuen my heart a winking, mute and dumbe,

Or look'd vpon this Loue, with idle sight,
What might you thinke? No, I went round to worke,

And (my yong Mistress) thus I did bespeake
Lord Hamlet is a Prince out of thy Starre,

This must not be: and then, I Precepts gaue her,
That she should locke her selfe from his Resort,

Admit no Messengers, receiue no Tokens:
Which done, sheooke the Fruits of my Advice,

And he repuls'd. A short Tale to make,
Fell into a Sadnesse, then into a Fast,

Thence to a Watch, thence into a Weaknesse,
Thence to a Lightnesse, and by this declension

Into the Madnesse whereon now he raues,
And all we waile for.

King. Do you thinke 'tis this?

Qu. It may be very likely.

Pol. Hath there bene such a time, I'de faine know that,
That I haue possitively said, 'tis so,

When it prou'd otherwise?

King. Not that I know.

Pol. Take this from this; if this be otherwise,
If Circumstances leade me, I will finde

Where truth is hid, though it were hid indeede
Within the Center.

King. How may we try it further?

Pol. You know sometimes
He walkes foure houres together, heere

In the Lobby.

Qu. So he ha's indee

Pol. At such a time

Be you and I behinde a

Marke the encounter:

And be not from his rea

Let me be no Assistant

And keepe a Farme and

King. We will try it

Enter Hamlet.

Qu. But looke whe

Pol. Away I do besee

He boord him presently

Oh giue me leaue. Ho

Ham. Well, God-a-

Pol. Do you know

Ham. Excellent, ex

Pol. Not I my Lord.

Ham. Then I would

Pol. Honest, my Lord

Ham. I fir, to be hon

one man pick'd out of

Pol. That's very true

Ham. For if the Sun

being a good kissing Ca

Haue you a daughter?

Pol. I haue my Lord

Ham. Let her not w

blesing, but not as yo

looke too't.

Pol. How say you by

ter: yet he knew me no

ger: he is farre gone, fa

I suffred much extream

speake to him againe.

Ham. Words, word

Pol. What is the ma

Ham. Betweene wh

Pol. I meane the ma

Ham. Slanders Sir

that old men haue gray

kl'd; their eyes purg'd

Gumme: and that they

together with weake H

most powerfully, and

not Honestie to haue i

selfe Sir, should be old

go backward.

Pol. Though this be

Yet there is Method in't

Out of the ayre my Lord

Ham. Into my Graue

Pol. Indeed that is o

How pregnant (sometime

A happinesse,

That often Madnesse hi

Which Reason and San

So prosperously be deli

I will leaue him,

And sodainly contriue

Betweene him, and my

My Honourable Lord, I

Take my leaue of you.